NUMB. LXIX.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——— *dare Jura Maritis.* HOR.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16. 1724.

PATTY AMBLE has many *Friends*, who will be glad to hear, That the COQUET is come to Town; after two whole Months Abſence. *LOVE* reviſits me, at the Approach of this *wild Creature*, like the Return of a *Tertian Ague*. — So, my *Readers*, in mere Pity, muſt be moderate, when they find me *Dull*. 'Tis a *Rule*, among us, *LOVERS*, to be either ſtark *Mad*, or *Stupid*. — See! what an unaccountable *Letter* the *pert Beggar* has ſent me!

Dear SLAVY!

AT laſt, this ſweet Town, which muſt, for ever, hold my *Heart*, has, again, Poſſeſſion of my *Perſon*. — I left *Tunbridge*, a Hundred Years ago; and went a Pilgrimage, in pure Compaſſion, to viſit a poor Thing, in *Marriage Trammels*: Where I have ſtuck faſt, ever ſince, in the *Dirt* of your Dear *Suſſex*.

WELL! tho' I have but half forgiven you, for ſetting That *breathing Whirligig*, *Ned Volatile*, upon me; yet, I think, I am as much in *Love* with *You*, as with any of your *Rival Candidates* for the *Place* I have to diſpoſe of. — But, if ever I marry you, there is *One Thing*, I muſt poſitively *inſiſt on*. — You ſhall keep me *Two Chairs*, and a *Chariot*. — I had ſcarce a *Scruple* of Brains, in my Head, all laſt Week: For, after rumbling up, in a *Stage-Coach*, I was *pounded to Death*, from the dreadful *Borough*, to *Park-Place*, in an odious *Hackney Mortar*. — You have *Hiſtory*, I know, at your Finger's Ends: Pray ſend me the *Name* of that Tragical *Roman* Tumbler, who was barrel'd up, by the *Carthaginians*; and roll'd, a Mile or two, down Hill, in a *Butt*, ſtuck full of *Ten-penny-Nails*? Methinks, I pity him, from my Heart! For, I could not help thinking, while I was bouncing up and down, in my Vehicle, like a Thimble-full of Shot, in a Quart Bottle, That my own *Caſe* was as bad as *His*. At leaſt, if there was any Difference, it lay only in a few *Points*, which I had rather give up, than *ſtand upon*.

HEAVEN have Mercy on theſe poor *Citizens Wives*, who, when their hideous *Bedfellows* have made them too *big*, to be able to *go*, are forc'd to be *carried*, in theſe Town Tumbrels. — 'Tis well I was not choſe for a *Knight of the Shire*, at our laſt Election! The Rogues, who contriv'd theſe *Bolting Hutches*, to fift People's Bones thro' their Skins, ſhou'd never have eſcap'd *Puniſhment*, for want of a *Law*, to reach them: I would have got an *ACT paſſed, on Purpoſe*, to have the Monſters *gallop'd to Death*, in their own unmerciful *Torturing-Boxes*.

COME, and drink *TEA* with me To-morrow. I know, you don't love to be *look'd at*: And, to humour that very out-o'the-way *Taſte*, of yours, we will be as Retir'd, as two Snails in a Wilderneſs. For, I have reſolv'd to be at Home to No-Body, but *Jenny Ogle*, and *Gatty Goſling*, and dear Lady *Frightall*, and *Miſs Jumper*, and *Jack Scarecrow*; and *Jack*, you know, is *No-Body*: — *Jack* is like one of the *Family*. Only, if *Sally Simper* ſhould chance to drop in — or *Fanny Prue*, in her new *Equipage*, there is *no being denied to Them*: For the whole Town ſays, That *Sally* has had a *Misfortune*, ſince I went to *Tunbridge*: And *Fanny* is a *Prude*, that has ſtoop'd as low, as *Matrimony*. — I long to ſee how they look, after the Accidents, that have befallen them. — Don't, *fail* at your Peril, for we want your Sage *Advice*, about a *Project*, that is newly come into our Heads; and I ſhall never be at Reſt, 'till I know, what you think of it.

THE Buſineſs, in one Word, is *Freedom*: *WOMAN's Freedom*. — For, ſure! if *Men*, who are born, to be *Subjects*, pretend to *Liberty*, and deſie *Tyrants*; our *Sex* muſt have High Pretenſions; who, by *Nature*, were form'd for *Sovereignty*; and can make Slaves of *thoſe*, who enſlave Millions! — In ſhort, we are come to a Reſolution to *iſſue Writs*, and call together a *Female Parliament*. — *You* allow, that we have *Wit*; — *We, our ſelves*, know, *we* have *Wiſdom*: And every Body has *Reaſon* to know, that *we* can't want *Authority*. — So, the Thing it ſelf is paſt Diſpute; *we* have *decreed, to take Government upon us*: But the *Queſtion* is, Under what *Name*, or *Title*, we ſhall exerciſe it.

WE are told, by an Experienc'd *Siſter*, who is *ſole Chamber Counſel*, to an Eminent *Counſellor, at Law*, that the Word *Parliament* will be too Bold, and Ardent, for our *Purpoſe*. And, yet, if another of our Members, who is Learned in *Law French*, be but as good at *Derivation*, as ſhe has always been at *Diſputation*, *She* will have *Parliament* to ſignifie *Prattlement*; and, in that Caſe, who doubts, but we might make good our *Pretenſions*.

HOWEVER, let it go. We aim at Nothing, but our *juſt Prerogative*; nor have any Deſign, in the leaſt, againſt the *Privileges* of the *other Houſes*; whoſe Members, for any Thing I ſee to the contrary, may be as *Capable* as *We* are.

Yet, it were, certainly, no harder upon the *Men*, That the *Women* ſhould uſurp *their Offices*, than it is mortifying, to us *Women*, to ſee the *Men* interpoſe, in *Ours*. And, what Truth can be more manifeſt, than, That there are Male-Members, of more Houſes than One, *ungallant* enough to invade us, in our very *Eſſentials*? — Some can *Dance*, as well as we can; ſome (tho' Fewer indeed) can even *talk*, as well. — Here, and

[Price Two Pence.]

and there, one can *manage a Family*, as well: — But an infinite Number of them can *waſh their Mouths*, as well; and vye *Genius* with us, in *Dreſs*, and *Diverſion*. — Nay, I am credibly inform'd, by an Able *Committee-Woman*, of our Aſſembly, That ſhe is intimate with *Two* of them, who are ſo *far gone*, againſt us, that the firſt *makes Shifts, and Aprons*, with the fineſt Work-woman of his Acquaintance: And the other can *cut Paper*, the beſt, of any *Gentlewoman*, in the three Kingdoms!

IF ſuch Wrongs as theſe muſt be *tolerated*, away with Order, and Diſtinction. — Shall any Body, after *this*, ſay, we ought not to aſſume a *Title*, becauſe the Nation has, already, beſtow'd it on *Our Repreſentatives*? What were the *Nation*, without *Us*? And how are *WE Repreſented*, where none, of our *Sex*, are permitted to ſit, and vote, for *Us*? Is this *Free Government*? Is this to be ſubject to no Laws, but thoſe, we have, firſt, given Conſent to? — Either, let us, as a Diſtinct *Body*, have a Right to *govern Our ſelves*; or, admit an Equal Number of *Us* to ſit, where *Laws* are *made for Us*: And, I believe, I may venture to undertake, for the *Abſent*, That we will be modeſt enough, in that Caſe, to content our ſelves with a *bare Negative*, upon All Bills, that concern *Us*.

BUT, what ſhall we do, about this *Difficulty*, of the *Name*? Old Lady *Lofty* was for having us dignifie our Purpoſe with the awful Sound of *The SENATE*: But, her Grand-Daughter, who can read *Horace*, in *Latin*, ſaid, That *Title* had an Air, too *Motherly*, and would *ſit hard*, upon Youth, and Gaiety. — It was next mov'd, That a *Committee* of *Virgin Elders* ſhou'd be ſent, as far as *Poland*, to borrow, and bring Home, the Uſe of the Word *DIET*. — *Kitty Hoyden* leapt out of her Chair, to ſecond this *Motion*.—She had been inform'd, ſhe ſaid, That *Poliſh Diets* are often ſummon'd to meet, *on Horſeback*; and ſhe was poſitive, That no People could ride, more Learnedly, than the *Horſe-women* of our Country. She added, That little more ſeem'd peculiar, to theſe *Poliſh Diets*, unleſs it were their *Art*, of *Quarrelling, without Interval*: And, in that, too, ſhe ſaw no Reaſon, why an *Engliſh Woman* might not equal them.

IT was now in a fair Way to be carried, on this ſide the *Queſtion*; when *Suky Shadely*, who is newly recover'd, from the *Jaundice*, turn'd the Tide of Opinions, by crying out, That ſhe *proteſted* againſt the *Phyſical* Sound of the Word; for it put her in Mind of her *Apothecary*. — What, at laſt, we, all, inclin'd to, was the *Turkiſh Title*, of *DIVAN*. I think, *CONVENTION* was whiſper'd, faintly; but none of us knew what to make of it: And, as for *CONVOCATION*, it was unanimouſly rejected, upon the Inſinuation of a grave *Arch-Deaconeſs*, That it would be inconvenient to aſſume *known Titles*, which, under Pretence of *Cuſtom*, and *Precedent*, might reduce us to Subordination; and bring us to feel ſome Power, we ſhould not dare to diſobey, and yet be heartily vex'd, at ſubmitting to.

DEAR *SLAVY*, don't look grim; but *think* for us, and help us out, as you wiſh well to your Speculations. — Come, for your Conſideration, beforehand, I will communicate to you the Material *Heads*, upon which we meditate our Inſtitution; as they were drawn up for us, by a *Sergeant's Lady*, who has often made it a *Moot Point*, whether *Her Stile*, or *Her Husband's* is moſt Remarkable for *Conciſeneſs*.

Firſt, THEN, For avoiding Diſputes, and Conteſts, with certain Courts, already Eſtabliſhed, we renounce, diſcharge, and hereby openly diſavow, and proteſt againſt, all Claim and Pretence, whatever, to Deciſions, of *Juſtice*, or of *Equity*.

Secondly, WE forego, quit claim to, and depart from, in like manner, all Exerciſe, Right, Benefit, Intereſt, Property, and Demand, of, in, from, to, or upon, Subjects, *Religious* or *Eccleſiaſtical*. PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, That Nothing, in this Article contain'd, ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to deprive us of our Claim, and Privilege, to hold, and avow, Juriſdiction, as well *Corporal*, as *Spiritual*, over All Form, Matters, and Things, which have related, do relate, or ſhall, or may, relate, hereafter, to *Virgin Frailties*, *Slips*, *Elopements*, or any other *Female* Privilege, or Privileges, whether *Maidenly*, or *Matrimonial*.

Thirdly, THAT all Cauſes, Debates, Laws, Doubts, or Cuſtoms, touching, concerning, importing, appendant, or relating to, *Love*, *Honour*, *Dreſs*, *Duty*, *Wit*, *Breeding*, and *Domeſtick Authority*, and *Diſcipline*, in all its Parts, Degrees, and Diviſions, ſhall lye, in their *laſt Appeal*, before *US*, and *US ONLY*.

Fourthly, THAT All and Every the Members of our Aſſembly ſhall have, hold, take, occupy, exerciſe, and enjoy, the ſame Exemptions, Freedoms, Perſonal Rights, Diſtinctions, and Peculiarities, which have at any Time, being occupied, or enjoy'd, by any the Member, or Members, of whatſoever other Aſſembly, of, in, or belonging to, theſe Kingdoms. And, in particular, that All and Every their Perſon, or Perſons, ſhall be, and for ever remain, free from all Arreſts, Touch, Seizure, Detainment, Reſtraint, or Attachment, whether by Father, Husband, Guardian, or by, or under, any other Authority, or pretended Authority, whatſoever. Any Law, Act, Grant, Matter, or Thing, to the contrary, in any wiſe, notwithſtanding.

Fifthly, THAT for the ſurer Diſpatch of Buſineſs, under the Multiplicity of *Debates*, that may, and queſtionleſs, ſhall and will, ariſe, in ſo able, and ſo numerous an Aſſembly, the *Houſe* ſhall chuſe SIX SPEAKERS (of whom, however, no more than *Three* ſhall ſpeak, at once) that ſo there may be, at all Times, a Reſerve, for due Succeſſion; in Caſe of *One Sett's* wholly *tiring*, under ſuch inceſſant *Application*.

Sixthly, THAT the Firſt *Seſſion* ſhall be held, in the Great *Maſquerade Room*, at the *Opera Houſe*, in the *Hay-Market*; where All the *Voices* of that Houſe, whether *Women*, or *Other than Women*, ſhall be admitted, to ſit, with the Members. But no *abſolute Men* ſhall be capable of holding Office, within Doors, *SAVE ONLY* our Truſty, and Well-beloved *John James Heidegger*, whom, in Regard to his Good Will, and Paſt Services, we conſtitute ſole Bearer of our *Mace*, and of all other, our convenient Utenſils.

THESE are all our *determin'd* Articles: But it was as good as *Reſolved*, at our laſt Meeting, That, for the *Safety* of our Aſſembly, proper Application ſhall be made, for a Company of Guards, to mount, upon us, and continue to do Duty, as long at ever we ſit. The Officers, of this Company, as high up, as the Lieutenant, may, as uſually they are, be of the *Maſculine Gender*: But the *Captain* muſt, always, be a *Woman*. — If the Lieutenant happens to be *Married*, his Wife will *Command, of Courſe*. But, if not, the Nomination will be by Majority of the Members Voices.

YOU ſee, now, Dear Servant, the Great Importance of this Affair: And, ſince I am ſure, your Head is ſtor'd, with *Models*, *Schemes*, and *Syſtems*, concerning *Power*, and *Rights* of *Government*, drawn from *Latin*, *Greek*, and *Gothick*; nay, and for any Thing I know, from *Arabick*, and *Egyptian*: Do but *aid* our generous Purpoſe, with your Experience, and grave Counſel, and you ſhall ſee, as ſoon as we are Married, with how much Gentleneſs I will hold the Reins, which your Wiſdom will have contributed to put into the Hands of, — I was going to ſay your *Affectionate*; but, in ſober Sadneſs, of

Your oblig'd,
and not inſenſible, Humble Servant,

MARTHA AMBLE.

ERRATA.

The Reader is deſired to correct the following Miſtakes in laſt *Friday's Plain-Dealer*. In p. 1. Col. 1. l. 20. inſtead of the Words [*inſcrib'd with more*] read [*Inſcrib'd with* no *more*] p. 2. Col. 2. l. 11. inſtead of [*Undertaking*] read [*Underſtanding.*]

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